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Daily Report

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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Congo

Iran Denies Involvement in UTA Plane Crash

AB1701172390 London BBC World Service in English
1615 GMT 17 Jan 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A television program shown in Congo Brazzaville has not pleased the Iranians. The program points a finger at Iran as being behind the plane crash disaster in Niger 4 months ago. The airliner, which started its journey in Brazzaville, went down with the loss of all lives on board. From Brazzaville, Antoine Moyembala telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] The Iranian Embassy in Brazzaville has reacted strongly against the accusation that Iran might have financed the criminal destruction of the DC-10 plane. This denial follows the official television station's rebroadcasting of the story from French TV, according to which two members of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah Movement might have been responsible for the attack on the French plane. The explosive device, according to the TV program, was probably put aboard at Brazzaville and exploded whilst the aircraft was over the desert after a stop in Chad. The aeroplane belonged to the French airline, UTA, and the crash resulted in the death of all 171 passengers and crew. It is believed that the crash was the result of a bomb aboard the aircraft.

According to the communique issued by the Iranians, they said that such accusations as those made on Congo TV were an attempt to prevent victory by the oppressed people of the world. The communique repeated the Iranian condemnation of the bombing and said that according to the holy law of Islam, all Iranians must reject all violence against innocent people. [end recording]

French Official Reaffirms Support for Africa

AB1701185490 Paris AFP in French 1124 GMT
17 Jan 90

[Text] Brazzaville, 17 (Jan (AFP)—The French chairman of the Economic and Social Council [CES], Jean Matteoli, told Congolese authorities, who were concerned about the East-West rapprochement, that France would continue to support African countries despite the interest aroused by changes in Eastern Europe.

Mr. Matteoli, who was speaking yesterday evening in Brazzaville after meeting with Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, stressed that France "will always look in the direction of Africa despite the recent changes in Eastern European countries, which are recovering their liberty."

The chairman of the CES added that he had discussed with President Sassou-Nguesso these changes and their

consequences regarding cooperation between Western countries and Africa. President Sassou-Nguesso recently expressed his concern about the East-West rapprochement, saying he feared it would marginalize the African states.

On his arrival in the Congolese capital on Monday [15 January] evening, Mr. Matteoli held discussions with the speaker of the Congolese Parliament, Bernard Matsiona, and his counterpart, Ange Edouard Pongui, on possible cooperation between the French and Congolese Economic and Social Councils.

Gabon

University Students Protest Poor Teaching

AB1801112490 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1830 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] In Gabon, students of Omar Bongo University in Libreville embarked on a strike yesterday. Some students spoke to Jean-Claude Francemadon about the cause of the strike.

[Begin recording] [Student] The strike is essentially because of the poor quality of courses. Presently, there are no lecturers, especially in the faculties of economy and law. It is necessary to note that the lecturers ... [changes thought] as the quality of the teaching is poor, the students want a systematic replacement of all lecturers and lectures. They want permanent and fully qualified lecturers.

[Francemadon] It seems you have already held discussions—student leaders and the university officials—with the minister of higher education. What was the outcome of this meeting?

[Student] The problem has not yet been settled.

[Francemadon] Is the problem of lecturers the only problem raised by the students of Omar Bongo University?

[Student] There are other problems, such as the validity of our certificates in other faculties of economy and law. We have observed that our certificates and degrees are not really valid abroad.

[Francemadon] In this case, do you think you will be able to take your preliminary examinations in March?

[Student] We do not know. Frankly speaking, we are just waiting. We do not really know. [end recording]

Well, we will remain in Gabon with this strike at Omar Bongo University. After the students, Gabonese Higher Education Minister Jules Bourdes-Ogouliguende speaks about the cause of this strike to Jean Valere Mbinamanza.

First, I must brief you on the beginning of this case.

[Begin Ogouliguende recording] This is not a problem that concerns all the students of Omar Bongo University. It is a problem that arose at the faculty of law and economy. And even within the establishment, the problem concerns specifically the department of economy. The students of economy reacted because since the beginning of the academic year, they observed that lectures were not well organized and their tutorials had not yet begun. They were worried about this so they expressed—it is normal and praiseworthy—concern about inadequate training.

We examined the points contained in the minutes of their general assembly and we gave them the following reply: The minister of finance rapidly provided funds for the creation of 24 posts to enable us to employ permanent lecturers. We told the students, however, we now need candidates for the available posts. We cannot invent candidates for these posts. We now need to look for Gabonese nationals or expatriates who meet the qualifications required for teaching in an institution of higher learning.

Concerning the recurrent budget of Omar Bongo University, we explained that things had been reviewed and resources improved, at least for the 1990 fiscal year and that we were waiting for the release of the budget at the beginning of the year. [end recording]

'Dozens' Injured in Clashes

*AB1801125690 Paris AFP in French 0905 GMT
18 Jan 90*

[Text] Libreville, 18 Jan (AFP)—L'UNION, the Gabonese national daily today reported that "dozens of students and policemen were injured," when striking students of the Omar Bongo University were driven off of the campus by police yesterday afternoon. The number of casualties was not given by official sources. Unofficially, it was learned that the two major hospitals in Libreville received a dozen injured people. Material damage was said to be heavy. An armored vehicle equipped with a water hose was burned and several other vehicles were damaged. This morning, the university grounds, under police guard, were littered with pieces of wood, broken glass, and so on... an AFP journalist noticed. The university was declared out of bounds yesterday evening.

In an interview with L'UNION, General Leon Ossiali-Ongaye, commander in chief of the National Police Forces (FPN), said he acted after Jules Bourdes-Ogouliguende, the state minister for education, and Moise Oliveira, the rector of the university, called for

help and requested the urgent intervention of the security forces on campus to ensure the security of personnel, property, and the freedom of non-striking students. "The striking students set up barricades on the roads, and held up passers-by, who they taxed—500 CFA francs (Fr10) for Gabonese nationals, 1,500 CFA francs (Fr30) for non-Gabonese, and 10,000 CFA francs (Fr200) for non-Africans," General Ossiali added. "They also began marching to the Renovation Palace in Libreville. We urged them to return to campus (...) Once there, they became aggressive and started throwing things on the roads and breaking vehicles on campus." According to Gen. Assiali, students threw Molotov cocktails at security forces and "some people were injured on both sides."

It should be recalled that the strike was launched on the evening of 14 January by students of the law and economics departments. The Omar Bongo University Humanities Department students later joined them out of solidarity. The striking students are protesting against the shortage of lecturers and poor working conditions.

Libreville 'Tense'

*AB1901065090 Paris AFP in French 1943 GMT
18 Jan 90*

[Text] Libreville, 18 Jan (AFP)—The situation was tense late this afternoon in Libreville, where demonstrations by high school and university students resulted in looting, it was learned from various unofficial sources in the Gabonese capital. The students tried to loot stores in the densely populated districts downtown, but the extent of the damage was not known. Early this evening, all stores downtown were closed, it was noted there. The outlying boulevard, which links the airport (north of the city) with the port (located in the south) was unpassable late this afternoon. Groups of pupils blocked the way and stoned cars that dared to take it. A gas station was completely destroyed near the Owendo district.

After the police had forced out the students occupying the campus of Omar Bongo University in Libreville yesterday evening, high school students took to the streets this morning to demonstrate their solidarity. At that time, the university students went to the headquarters of the Intervention Police Force (FOPI) to demand the release of their classmates picked up for questioning the previous day.

No official reports were available on the outcome of yesterday evening's clashes. The national Gabonese daily, L'UNION, reported that "dozens of people were injured on both police and student sides."

Djibouti

Sudanese, Ugandan Leaders Meet; Reach Agreement

AB1801111290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1437 GMT
17 Jan 90

[Text] Djibouti, 17 Jan (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir met the Ugandan president, Yoweri Museveni, here this morning, at the Sheraton Hotel, where he is staying. There was a discussion on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said in a statement to the press that he discussed the problems existing between the two countries with the Ugandan president. Problems that, he said, were reflected in the recent mutual accusations—namely, Sudan accusing Uganda of helping outlaws infiltrate through its territory, while Uganda accused Sudan of helping the Ugandan opposition.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir clarified that Uganda had allowed the outlaws to pass through its territory as a reaction against Brigadier Isaiah Paul's entry with his forces into Ugandan territory recently.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir confirmed that agreement had been reached with President Museveni to put an end to these problems and that Uganda would not give any assistance to the Sudanese rebels and Sudan, in turn, would not assist the Ugandan opposition.

Al-Bashir Says South Under Control

EA1801140990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1029 GMT
18 Jan 90

[Text] Djibouti, 18 January (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council General 'Umar al-Bashir expressed hope that the African countries will coordinate among each other for achieving comprehensive economic (?development) on the continent for the interest of the African people.

In a press conference he held here yesterday Gen. Al-Bashir affirmed that the revolution had exerted extensive efforts to rebuild Sudan's external relations with sister countries in Africa and the Arab (?world) [word indistinct] in this regard the re-opening of Sudan's Embassy in Djibouti.

Sudan's external relations are based on the principles of regional and international organisations, Al-Bashir said.

Gen. al-Bashir affirmed that the situation in the south is under the full control of the armed forces. What had happened in Kajo Kaji (?area) is a normal withdrawal, Al-Bashir said.

Regarding the Operation Lifeline Sudan Al-Bashir said preparations and consultations are going on between the Sudanese Government and the coordinator of U.N's operations in Khartoum for resuming the next stage

shortly [words indistinct] that the next stage will concentrate on the projects [words indistinct] more than concentrating on transporting (?relief) supplies to the needy people.

Ethiopia

Rebels Say 1,340 Government Casualties in Gonder

EA1901110290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad
Masses of Ethiopia in Amharic 0400 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] An enemy attempt to control Kimir Dingay and Gona in Gonder and to make people suffer has been foiled by the struggle of the people's forces of the heroic Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] and the local people. The enemy attempt to control Kimir Dingay and Gona in Gonder and to make people suffer was foiled by the struggle of people's forces of the heroic EPRDF and the local people, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

The enemy put its 28th, 15th and 7th Divisions in an anti-people engagement and 1,340 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded, while 64 others were captured in the fighting. Among the captured were a father and son who had been forcefully brought from Shewa Administrative Area by the Dergue for its racist campaign.

The captured enemy weapons are: 147 light guns: 4 submachine guns: 1 (?PRC)-77 radio communications set. Moreover, 17 soldiers, who were members of the 7th Division, surrendered to the people's forces of the heroic EPRDF on 17 January 1990.

Rebels Report Mengistu Noncooperation on Aid

EA1801195590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad
Masses of Eritrea in Amharic 0630 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The lack of cooperation by the Dergue in providing food corridors for the distribution of food in areas held by freedom fighters has worried the United Nations and the U.S., news reports indicate. Although the Dergue gives lip service to normal distribution of food aid to all drought victims, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and U.S. congressmen have accused Colonel Mengistu of not cooperating with aid agencies. They have appealed to Col. Mengistu to open food corridors for drought victims.

Somalia

SNM Rebel Statement Urges Army Mutiny

EA1701140190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Somali
National Movement in Somali 1500 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] A press release by the information secretariat of the Somali National Movement [SNM] calls on the Somali Democratic Republic Armed Forces not to continue serving the so-called army of Siad Barre. You

should lay down your arms and join the general public of Somalia and join the legitimate armed struggle of the Somali people. This will hasten the fall of the tribalist and anti-people regime in our country. A spokesman for the SNM read the press statement to our Hogogaal program.

In the past 20 years since the tyrant Siad Barre usurped power in our country, the situation in the country has [words indistinct]. The peace-loving people of Somalia have witnessed hatred and endless crises. They have created tribal animosity among the Somali tribes, who have always lived together in peace. He armed one tribe against the other so they could exterminate each other. [Words indistinct] a stage where two brothers (?kill) each other. He implanted enmity and bellicosity among the Somali tribes [words indistinct]. He also divided the Somali tribes so they may not support each other against his satanic and beastly rule in the country. [Words indistinct] he has savagely destroyed the religious leaders, educationists, intellectuals and all those whom he thought were against his regime. The beastly regime of Mogadishu has unlawfully and unjustly [words indistinct] the Somali intellectuals, because he saw that the Somali intellectuals could understand things and fight back against the massacres, oppression and ugly rule against the Somali people.

Therefore, recently Afweyneh [nickname for Siad Barre, meaning big mouth] himself said that [words indistinct]. The Somali people have now understood, and that is why we have various armed groups waging war against the regime from all sides. We therefore call on the Somali Armed Forces to turn their weapons against the anti-Somali regime of Mogadishu. Today is the right day, because tomorrow might be too late, concluded the spokesman of the SNM information secretary.

Uganda

Deputy Minister Didi Asserts Neutrality on Sudan

EA1801221590 Kampala Domestic Service
in English 1400 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Uganda returnees from the Sudan and the people of Moyo District as a whole have been asked to emulate the government's position of neutrality in the current state of civil war in the Sudan. The deputy minister of foreign and regional affairs and also NRC [National Resistance Council] member for West Moyo County, Mr. Agard Didi, made the call when addressing several

meetings in the district last week. Mr. Didi said the official position of the Uganda Government is that of mediation.

On the passage of relief in areas under siege, the minister said this was under the agreement of Operation Lifeline Sudan, to which the government of Uganda and the United Nations are signatories. He said the agreement is aimed at supplying relief to all areas in the Sudan. Mr. Didi called on all Ugandans not to think that food which goes to Sudan under this agreement is taking sides in the Sudanese conflict. The war in the Sudan, he declared, is their internal conflict and we cannot choose the leader for the people of that country, the minister continued. The deputy minister advised RC's [Resistance Councils] to keep themselves more informed about events taking place near them, and identify the authorities across the border for peaceful coexistence and avoidance of panic.

Refugee Status Granted to 22 Zairian Rebels

EA1801214390 Dakar PANA in English 1439 GMT
18 Jan 90

[Text] Kampala, 18 Jan (UNA/PANA)—Thirteen of the 22 Zairean rebels of the Parxie de la Liberation Congolais (PLC) who entered Uganda in June 1988 have been accorded refugee status. They are expected to live at Kyaka refugee settlement in Kabarole District, 317 km west of Kampala, together with another 1,500 Zaireans who have been in Uganda since the political upheavals in their homeland in the 1960's.

Political asylum granted to the 13 Zaireans was confirmed Tuesday [16 January] by an official at the refugees' office in the Ministry of Local Government in Kampala. He said that not all the 22 Zairean nationals acquitted of illegal presence in Uganda had turned up for a screening exercise carried out in September 1989. He said, "some seem to have disappeared". During the exercise it was found out that two of the men were mentally unstable. These, the official said, have not been accorded asylum because they would not be harassed on returning to their country. He said that it was discovered that some of the refugees were not telling the truth about themselves as information given to the intelligence and the refugee offices differed.

"We discovered they would be free men if they went home, hence their position not warranting refugee status," the official added.

The Zairean nationals originally entered Uganda through Kitholulu village in Kasese District on the Uganda-Zaire border. They were fleeing an attack by the Zairean Armed forces (FAZ).

Police Teargas, Charge Crowd at Airport

*MB1901085690 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0813 GMT 19 Jan 90*

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 19 SAPA—A crowd of 100-150 people was teargassed and baton-charged by police at Jan Smuts Airport on Friday [19 January] morning, a police spokesman said.

Col Vic Heyns said the crowd had produced placards and had moved in a group towards the arrival hall, contrary to airport regulations. They were warned the gathering was illegal and were given two minutes to disperse.

When they did not, police fired tearsmoke and charged with batons.

"Four men were arrested. After the police action they got into buses and went away.

"These people had nothing to do with the (rebel English cricket) tour, as far as were concerned," Col Heyns told SAPA, "we think they were there to welcome Walter Sisulu."

Mr Sisulu has been visiting African National Congress colleagues in Lusaka but there had been no indication that he was expected home today.

The crowd had arrived earlier in Buses, Col Heyns said, and had been allowed to disembark.

"They were warned not to violate any laws."

They had, however, produced placards and had allegedly damaged a police booth at the entrance to the arrival hall.

Winnie Mandela Comments

*MB1901085790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0839 GMT 19 Jan 90*

[Report by Craig Doonan]

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 19 SAPA—The violent action by the SA [South Africa] Police at Jan Smuts Airport on Friday morning was totally at variance with State President F.W. de Klerk's recent actions and statements, Mrs Winnie Mandela said at an emergency press conference at the airport on Friday.

She said the police action could have serious implications on talks of possible negotiations between the African National Congress [ANC] and the South African Government.

She was referring to an incident on Friday morning when about 200 demonstrators were teargassed and dispersed by police armed with batons and dogs.

UDF [United Democratic Front] leader Popo Molefe said at least nine people had been arrested at the airport and legal representatives had been refused permission to see or speak to them.

Mrs Mandela said Mr Ali Bacher, managing director of the SA Cricket Union, was on record as saying the tour would not result in violence.

The violence at the airport, however, was "the violence the ANC has been asked to abandon", she said.

"We are not the one responsible for violence, we came here peacefully, we were attacked by F.W.'s men."

She said the police officer in charge at the airport had given a specific order for police to attack the demonstrators.

"This is the violence which could result in a bloodbath during the tour," Mrs Mandela warned.

"The tour has no right to take place and we will continue with demonstrations," she added.

Moscow Paper Interviews President De Klerk

*PM1201161590 Moscow NEW TIMES in English
No. 1, 1990 p 28*

[Interview with President Frederik de Klerk by Nikolay Reshetnyak in Pretoria: "From Race Antagonism to Harmony"; date not given]

[Text] NEW TIMES. In many countries your rise to power is associated with changes in South Africa's home and foreign policies. How do you see South Africa's future?

Frederik de Klerk. I honestly believe that we will be able to resolve many of our urgent problems before long. We have taken the road of involving all sections of the population in running the nation and we want to ensure the fair distribution of social wealth. That can be achieved only through a dialogue with all the parties concerned. The new system that we all seek to bring about is designed to grant all South Africans equal chances in displaying their abilities.

South Africa's requirements are to a certain extent determined by the diversity of ethnic groups and the large number of different cultures, languages and philosophies.... In a word, we must look for examples to follow in such multiethnic countries as Belgium or Switzerland, where the harmony of interests of all ethnic groups and sections of the population has been achieved. We do believe sincerely that we will be able to gradually solve our problems, but at this point it is impossible to name any specific dates. One step will simply entail another. But, of course, we are aware that time is an extremely important factor and we've got to move fast and we are going to do so.

N.T. [NEW TIMES] One of your first actions in the capacity of president was to release a number of political

prisoners who had for a long time been kept in jail for the sole reason of fighting against racial discrimination and protecting their legitimate rights....

F.K. [de Klerk] It is incorrect to say that those people were in prison only because they had fought against racial discrimination or defended their legitimate rights. They were there because they had taken part in acts of violence; because they made and exploded bombs and engaged in other activities that jeopardized the life and property of citizens.... Each of those "fighters" had served the required sentence, they had stayed in jail long and we decided that they had atoned for what they had done to society.

Our government has repeatedly said that the unconditional abolition of racial discrimination, of privileges of one race over another is our goal. And we have been doing everything in our powers to achieve that noble goal.

N.T. What will serve as the basis of your relations with the national liberation movements in South Africa?

F.K. I would like to point out the fact that we have been fighting only against those movements that conduct terrorist activity. I have said more than once that the African National Congress may join in the negotiations on a new constitution in South Africa that would give full and fair political rights to all peoples of our country.

The only demand we make is that the ANC must denounce violence and terrorism in public. The doors to the negotiations with us are open and anybody can come in....

N.T. I was a witness to your meeting with President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia in Livingstone near the Victoria Falls. To my mind that was a good occasion to talk about peace on earth and about the future in that impressive setting created by nature.... How do you see future relations with the neighbouring countries of black Africa?

F.K. That's true, as I stood there, at the Victoria Falls I pondered over the enormous human and economic potential of the African continent. It is a most important objective of my government to establish relations with all neighbouring countries. We would like the countries of southern Africa to cooperate in the future in exactly the same way as the European countries. We must establish firm economic ties, we need each other, and South Africa with its infrastructure and experience can play a constructive role in building a Community of countries of southern Africa. This community will benefit other countries because South Africa's economic potential may become a rather profitable market for exporters around the world.

We also hope that in the foreseeable future there can be a summit conference of the countries of the region. We have been working along these lines. President Kaunda said recently that such an opportunity looked realistic to him. The south of Africa needs stability. In Namibia, the process of decolonization has been going on successfully.

If reconciliation is achieved in Angola and stability restored to Mozambique, I believe we will live to see a new era in South Africa.

N.T. What do you think of future relations with our country?

F.K. We want good relations with all countries around the world. Moscow's new political thinking has paved the way for solving any problems by peaceful means. The situation has been improving fundamentally and for that reason I think we have good chances to improve mutually beneficial relations.

N.T. Apartheid has remained the main obstacle in the way of solving many problems. This is recognized by the international community. Is your administration going to take any steps to remove that obstacle and thereby to open up broader opportunities for cooperation between South Africa and other countries?

F.K. First of all let me remind you that I've been in politics for 18 years and I have never defended apartheid. However, there still is a wrong understanding of our government's attitude to that question. As far as the still existing practices of discrimination based on the segregation of races on the account of colour are concerned, we are going to abandon them. In the near future we shall abolish the act on segregated leisure facilities, which is an act of discrimination against the black population. During the three months I've been in office much has been done to show that we are working in earnest on how to guarantee the equal and fair distribution of rights and public wealth.

N.T. What would you wish the Soviet people?

F.K. I would simply like to say that we are building a new South Africa, a country where there will be equal opportunities for all and where different ethnic groups will feel they live in peace and security.

Mandela Comments on Possible Release

*MB1801221790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2026 GMT 18 Jan 90*

[Text] Cape Town Jan 18 SAPA—Jailed ANC [African National Congress] leader Nelson Mandela did not believe his release would be announced by President F.W. de Klerk at the opening of Parliament next month, a delegation of youth leaders said after a two day-visit to his Victor Verster prison house.

South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) President Peter Makoba said on Thursday Mr. Mandela told the eight-member delegation he believed his release would not "come on a platter" and he would not going to beg [as received] for his release.

"He said he would like to leave with us," Mr. Makoba said.

Among the issues discussed with Mr. Mandela was the meetings he had with cabinet ministers and State Presidents P.W. Botha and Mr. de Klerk.

Mr. Mandela again stressed he was not negotiating with the government but saw himself as a facilitator, Mr. Makoba said.

The meetings with government members were a result of Mr. Mandela wanting to draw government's attention to "the desperate situation of our people", he said.

Mr. Mandela had tried for more than three years to speak to the government and this showed the government had never been prepared to enter into talks with the ANC, Mr. Makoba said.

These issues had been raised during his meetings with Mr. de Klerk and Mr. Botha, Mr. Mandela told the delegation.

According to Mr. Makoba, Mr. Mandela said some of his views had been distorted by previous visitors, especially on nationalisation.

"He referred us to a statement he made in court in which he said political liberation can only be accompanied by some measure of socialism."

Other matters which were discussed included the fact the ANC had never stood for black domination and had no intentions of espousing communism, Mr. Makoba said.

The members of the delegation said they had been impressed with Mr. Mandela's "fighting spirit".

"He can come out (of prison) and replace any youth leader with his progressive militancy," one member of the delegation remarked.

UDF's Morobe Reacts to Vlok Statement

MB1801180090 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1733 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Johannesburg, Jan 18, SAPA—The United Democratic Front [UDF] said on Thursday [18 January] Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok's response on Wednesday to its decision to begin operating openly was "interesting and disturbing."

In a statement to SAPA late on Thursday, the UDF's acting publicity secretary, Murphy Morobe, said he felt a reappraisal of restricted organisations, as announced by Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee on Thursday, was "welcome" and "overdue."

The UDF found Mr. Vlok's statement interesting as "Mr. Vlok is suggesting that the UDF was never banned but in his words certain of its activities were restricted."

"Of course he does not state what these activities are because he knows very well that the nature of the restrictions on the UDF were intended to have the effect of an actual banning," he said.

The activities of 17 organisations, including the UDF, were restricted in June 1988.

Mr. Morobe said: "Only fools can be confused by the minister's play on semantics. "His response is also disturbing in that it exposes yet more clearly how the likes of Mr. Vlok would want to have their cake and eat it. "The response reveals unambiguously that behind the facade of civility which the government so half-heartedly tries to don, lurks the true creature of repression which we have come to know apartheid to be. "He should know the UDF has always rejected his government's malicious insinuations that the UDF was a threat to public safety.

"On the contrary, all the UDF seeks to do is to ensure that apartheid, a threat not only to the South African public but also to world peace, should be totally eradicated from the face of the earth.

"The government says it wants peace but what peace can there be if democratic opposition continues to be bottled under the repressive state of emergency.

"The government needs to learn that freedom of expression and association should never be dished out like an act of benevolence, it is a human right which we in the UDF strongly believe the government has no legitimate right to deny ..." he said.

On Mr. Coetsee's statement Mr. Morobe said: "The examination of restricted organisations is long overdue. We never could understand the restrictions on the UDF.

"If Mr. Coetsee really means what he says, it can only be welcomed."

Transkei's Holomisa Affirms Military Rule

MB1801164790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1639 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Umtata Jan 18 SAPA—Transkei Military Council leader General Bantu Holomisa on Thursday [18 January] said it was not the right time for the military to hand over government to civilian rule.

Addressing members of the Military Council, the Council of Ministers and the South African ambassador, he said meetings held on Wednesday by the Council of Ministers and with senior government officers had confirmed this.

Gen. Holomisa said President F.W. de Klerk's advice on the need for the country to return to civilian rule should not be construed as prescriptive or a fait accompli, but taken in the good spirit it was intended.

"The government nevertheless made it clear to him and his delegation that it is still in the middle of its anti-corruption crusade," he said.

"We (the military) are not power-mongers hell-bent on clinging to power for an indefinite period. Once we have carried out objectives to the letter, we will call it a day and return to barracks."

The advisability of holding a referendum would be assessed by a mandated committee on February 7, he added.

In a copy of his address sent to SAPA on Thursday, Gen. Holomisa stressed the need for mutual trust and confidence in bilateral relations between Transkei and South Africa.

However, he said:

"We must feel free to pursue various paths to attain the aim of social welfare and economic development without fear of political blackmail by any developed country and there must be no attempts to impose oneself upon the other.

"The future of Transkeian people is inescapably and inevitably intertwined with that of South African blacks, because we all share bitter experiences of denial and deprivation.

"A future civilian government is highly expected to articulate the disadvantaged positions of the black man and not be complacent with dancing to the tune of the architects and engineers of the separate development policy to the detriment of the people," said Gen. Holomisa.

Addressing the gathering, President T.N. Ndamase said recent events had shown an urgent need for SATBVC [South Africa Transkei, Bophuthatswana Venda Ciskei] neighbours to steer clear of confrontation with one another.

"The newly acquired freedoms of speech and of association should not be abused, and it is important that we should be able to swallow our pride when we cannot get things our way and forge...a unified approach towards a new and better dispensation," he said.

Azanian Organization Criticizes SACP Statement

*MB1801192490 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1841 GMT 18 Jan 90*

[Text] Harare, Jan 18, SAPA—The South African Communist Party (SACP), an ally of the African National Congress, was on Thursday [18 January] denounced for opting for a "multi-party bourgeois democracy."

An Azanian National Youth Unity (AZANYU) official said in a telephone interview with Zimbabwe's ZIANA news agency that SACP Secretary General Joe Slovo's statement concerning his organisation's acceptance of a multi-racial, multi-party democracy in South Africa was "a betrayal of the masses struggling against Pretoria."

AZANYU was not surprised at the announcement by the South African "so-called" Communist Party that it was moving towards a multi-party "bourgeois democracy instead of a socialist democracy," said AZANYU General Secretary Carter Seleke.

The SACP was "shamelessly guilty of social betrayal of the toiling masses and their actions confirm our long-held belief that they were never socialist but petty bourgeois liberal quacks which have mastered the art of abusing neo-Marxian phraseology.

"Comrade (Robert) Sobukwe was correct in calling them pseudo-communists and lackeys of Russian hegemony. They are neither socialist nor a vanguard party and their move to a neo-colonialist order where you are exploited non-rationally proves the point."

He added there was no need for two liberal parties in South Africa, and therefore the SACP should return to South Africa "and join the Democratic Party where they rightly belong."

Seleke said AZANYU commended President Robert Mugabe for his commitment to Marxism-Leninism "which is a formidable pillar of Pan-Africanism."

Angola

Officials Say Peace Summit Set for January

MB1801202290 Johannesburg International Service
in English 1500 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Angolan officials in Harare say the much-delayed Angolan peace conference of eight African leaders will be held this month. A report from Harare quotes one official as saying that Angola wants, and is working towards, a summit meeting this month. The report says this confirms media reports from Luanda. He said a venue had not been fixed.

The summit meeting, postponed several times last year, was due to have opened a week ago but was put off indefinitely after President Mobutu of Zaire said he was too busy to attend.

President Mobutu has been leading efforts to end the war, which has raged for 15 years between the Marxist government of Angola and the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] movement.

The official said President Mobutu was still mediator. He said he did not know of any attempts to find a new mediator. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola said in a recent television interview that the summit meeting should clarify and redefine President Mobutu's role as mediator.

The eight countries involved are Angola, Zaire, Congo, Gabon, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Foreign Minister Announces Amnesty Extension

MB1801073090 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese
1930 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Luanda, 17 Jan (ANGOP)—Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunem Loy said in Luanda on Monday [15 January] that the amnesty law will be extended in February "to continue to open ways for a peaceful solution through dialogue". The amnesty law was proclaimed by the Angolan Government on 4 February 1989, with a 1-year duration, to integrate elements into society that previously belonged to organizations that fight their own people.

In an interview with Angolan and Portuguese journalists, Loy stressed that within the framework of broadening democracy, independent candidates would be allowed to take part in elections for a broader people's participation in the country's destiny.

The foreign minister pointed out, however, that Angola is an independent and internationally recognized country, and as such, "the reconciliation process must be carried out within the framework of established [words indistinct].

FNLA Leader Seeks To Join Peace Process

MB1801072190 London BBC World Service
in English 1830 GMT 17 Jan 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] With peace moves between the Angolan Government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebels very much on ice at the moment and the war hotting up again, Holden Roberto, leader of the FNLA [National Front for the Liberation of Angola] which was decimated in the civil war in the mid-1970s, has cropped up again. Mr Roberto is appealing for some kind of round table conference to work toward reconciliation in Angola. On the line to Paris, Mark Doyle asked Holden Roberto what role he thought the FNLA could play now in Angola.

[Begin recording] [Roberto] Since UNITA and MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] cannot sit together and discuss, I think that FNLA can play a very important role in order to unite all the two parties.

[Doyle] And why do you think, from your point of view, why should UNITA and MPLA listen to the FNLA, who have been somewhat marginalized in the last few years?

[Roberto] That is not the question, marginalized, because we don't war, because war is not bringing anything. [sentence as heard] I think if we want peace in Angola, we must come all together, all of us, because if you put UNITA, but I doubt that will happen that UNITA and the MPLA will reach agreement, that is impossible [sentence as heard]. What the MPLA is trying to do is to crush UNITA until it will disappear and which I doubt also. They will continue. So, I think that in order to have peace, real peace in Angola, because FNLA has its people inside, its followers, and if it is not included, there will not be peace in Angola.

[Doyle] So, you are offering yourself as some sort of a broker, or are you offering yourself as an active participant in these talks?

[Roberto] Well, in my peace plan, I say FNLA must be involved because, even if we are not involved in the war, we have people inside, we have followers inside.

[Doyle] But, may I put it to you, Mr Roberto, that in Angola, over the last few years, it hasn't been a question of goodwill. Most of the people who had a chance to get involved in these talks are people who have got battle-hardened troops on the ground and are involved in the war. Why should anyone listen to you?

[Roberto] But what I am saying ... [pauses] what the war will do? Do you think that the war is going to solve the problem. I think naturally it is a political solution, because the war is not going to solve anything. I can assure that nothing will happen. We must sit down and discuss.

[Doyle] Do you think, Mr Roberto, that you personally have a role to play in internal politics. Would you like to return to Angola and get involved basically?

[Roberto] Well that is not my ... [pauses] it depends on the people. I am not going to decide. Once there is democracy in Angola, it is going to depend on the people to decide, not me.

[Doyle] Often, when exiled politicians say they will let the people decide, it means that they would really like to go home themselves and be involved?

[Roberto] If there is peace in Angola, if all the Cuban troops are out, I can go inside Angola, because I have my followers there.

[Doyle] And would you basically go over to the MPLA side, like some of your supporters have in the past?

[Roberto] Not at all, not at all. We are neutral. We are not involved with UNITA or MPLA. We are neutral. We will go there as FNLA because we have our followers inside. They must be participants in this process. I am not [word indistinct] anyone of them, because I am not involved in the war. I don't like war. What I want is peace in Angola. I don't support Savimbi or UNITA. I am neutral. [end recording]

FAPLA Communique Details 10-16 Jan Actions

*MB1801085690 Luanda Domestic Service
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Jan 90*

[Communique issued by People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) General Staff in Luanda on 17 January—read by announcer]

[Text] As has been reported, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] has continued to develop armed and terrorist actions against our forces and against the population. As a result of UNITA's terrorist action from 10-16 January, FAPLA forces suffered 13 dead and 24 wounded. We also lament the death of (?88) civilians and the wounding of 47 others.

The bandits operated principally in the provinces of Bie, Benguela, Huambo, Cuanza Norte, Cuanza Sul, and Moxico, carrying out attacks, ambushes, long-range attacks, and planting mines and explosive devices against our forces. In their activities against the population, the bandits carried out kidnappings, robberies, and massacres.

Actions carried out by UNITA that have not yet been reported include the following:

On 11 January, the bandits attacked Quimenga village, in (Cuacumba), Cuanza Norte, kidnapping six people. Our forces retaliated, killing four terrorists.

On the same day, the bandits attacked (Catachindu) village, in Ganda, Benguela Province, killing five people and wounding three others, burning nine houses, and stealing 17 head of cattle.

On 13 January, the bandits attacked Calenga village in Caala, Huambo Province, killing three people and wounding three others [words indistinct]. In retaliation, our FALA forces killed one UNITA element.

On the same day in Cubale, Benguela Province, the bandits ambushed a convoy of civilian vehicles, killing two civilians, wounding nine others, and burning nine vehicles.

In retaliation, FAPLA forces killed 37 terrorists, took 15 others prisoner, and freed 140 civilians who were forced to live under UNITA's captivity. Our forces also captured 46 weapons, including one 60-mm mortar [words indistinct] grenades [words indistinct]. (?They detonated) seven antitank mines and recovered 120 head of cattle. A total of 73 UNITA elements also presented themselves to our authorities, (?15) of them with their weapons.

In their mission to protect the sovereignty, our forces carried out operations mainly in the provinces of Huambo, Bie, Benguela, Cuanza Norte, and Cuanza Sul [words indistinct] on 13 January, there were renewed clashes in Cambandua, in Bie Province. Our FAPLA forces captured 10 antipersonnel mines, 14 kg of explosives, and other explosive material.

In Chongoroi, Benguela Province, on 14 January, our forces freed eight civilians and recovered 120 head of cattle.

Following another clash in (Chadiba), Huambo Province, on 15 January, our forces killed three bandits, took one prisoner, and captured six automatic weapons.

On the same day, an enemy group [words indistinct] in [words indistinct] killed five UNITA elements, took one prisoner, and captured four weapons, one transceiver, [words indistinct] three antipersonnel mines, and [words indistinct] war materiel.

Botswana

SWAPO, SADCC, UN Officials Hold Meeting

MB1801205090 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Officials of the Namibian liberation movement SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization, the regional economic alliance of southern Africa, SADCC [Southern African Development Coordination Conference], and the United Nations have held a meeting in Botswana's capital, Gaborone. SADCC Executive Secretary Simba Makoni attended the meeting.

The meeting was a continuation of consultations among these three organizations (?focusing) on assistance to Namibia and the territory's role in the economic alliance. Officials of the three groups also held bilateral discussions on matters of mutual interest.

Comoros

Moheli National Front Leader Presents Candidacy

EA1901092090 Mayotte Radio France Overseas
in French 1600 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] In Comoros, 1 month before the presidential elections, Mohamed Hassan Ali has just presented his candidacy. This is the first official candidacy. Mohamed Hassan Ali is the leader of the Moheli National Front. He was a former vice president under the regime of Ali Soilih.

The deadline for nominations is 25 January. The election campaign officially starts on 27 January and will end on (?? February). Mohamed Taki, another possible candidate for the Comoran presidential elections and a member of the UNDP, the National Union for Democracy in the Comoros, is due in the archipelago on Saturday, 20 January.

Mozambique

Beira Dock Workers End 2-Day Strike

MB1901125290 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1045 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Beira's dock workers resumed work today, thereby ending a 2-day strike in which they demanded the payment of long service and family bonuses; the apportionment of the enterprise's profits; a reviewed salary structure for dock workers; the payment of overtime to all workers; housing rent subsidies; the publication of the enterprise's general plan and production results; and the correct placement of workers in professional careers.

The strikers decided to return to work last night after a meeting with the enterprise's management produced answers to their demands. After admitting certain errors, management undertook to pay long service bonuses by 10 February, publish 1989's production results by May, and distribute profits among the workers if the enterprise's productivity conforms to the country's norms.

The management of the Beira docks enterprise also promised to settle the issue of overtime payments to all workers and to publish the enterprise's general plan and services program. The management also clarified for the workers the norms guiding the payment of 13th-month checks and the impossibility of implementing a salary structure for dock workers, for that is the responsibility of the government.

The strikers agreed to hold a general meeting with the enterprise on 22 January to discuss their problems relating to communication and being placed in professional careers. They insist this strike was principally caused by a lack of meetings with management in which

they could have learned about the enterprise's production results and its general situation over the last 4 years.

Meanwhile, the workers at (Empregil Sabelli), an Italian consortium rehabilitating quays in Beira harbor, also ended the strike they began on 15 January to demand 50-percent pay increases and the payment of 13th-month checks, among other things.

The workers at Beira Central Hospital are continuing their strike.

Namibia

UN Official Discusses Aid Donors Conference

MB1901154790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1240 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Windhoek, Jan 19, SAPA—An aid donors pledging conference is to be held in Namibia soon after independence—hopefully before the end of June, the assistant administrator of the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], Mr Pierre-Claver Damiba, said on Friday [19 January].

Mr Damiba, who hails from Burkina Faso and is visiting Namibia from New York, said the rationale was to capitalise on the momentum created by independence celebration—expected some time in March—and to save a year.

This was because most donor nations closed their financial years at the end of June or September. Final arrangements and invitations would be made by the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] government, who would also decide on whether South Africa is to be invited or not.

Mr Damiba said UNDP had prepared nine basic data reports on various sectors of the Namibian economy which had been sent to prospective donors.

He said the programme had 12 million dollars available to spend in Namibia over the next two years and this money would mostly be used for training and technical assistance. UNDP was also involved in getting international volunteer doctors, teachers and civil aviation personnel to replace SADF [South African Defense Force] members withdrawn from Namibia.

Mr Damiba said he had travelled to Gaborone with shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab to coordinate the respective regional and international inputs of the SADCC [South African Development Coordination Conference] and the UNDP.

He had also met other members of SWAPO's shadow cabinet, as well as senior civil servants and representatives of non-governmental organisations.

Before the donor confidence it was essential that SWAPO prepare a clear development policy statement, investment priorities and an assessment of key areas, he said.

Mr Damiba recommended that the country's well-developed private sector be encouraged and that the ability to absorb foreign aid be increased by creating more structures for its application.

Zambia

ANC Executive Council Meets in Lusaka 18 Jan

Kaunda Addresses Meeting

*MB1801210390 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 18 Jan 90*

[Text] The president, Comrade Kaunda, has declared that time is now ripe for a negotiated peace settlement in South Africa. The president said today, when he officially opened the National Executive Council meeting of the African National Congress [ANC], that the winds of change were being felt not only in southern Africa but throughout the world. He warned that it would spell tragedy for South Africa if it abused this opportunity by playing [words indistinct] that would leave the majority of South Africans unliberated.

He told the meeting, which is being held at the Mulungushi International Conference Center, that apartheid has survived through divide-and-rule tactics, adding that the new thinking by President Frederik de Klerk should instead rest on the unity of all South Africans. Comrade Kaunda said, however, that for unity to be achieved, preliminary issues—such as the release of Comrade Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of the ANC—must be resolved to create a conducive atmosphere for dialogue leading to lasting peace.

Meanwhile, the ANC has started working on and strengthening its negotiating position in view of indications that Comrade Mandela might be set free soon. The movement will, during its 2-day meeting in Lusaka, consider a number of issues ranging from preparations for negotiations, possibilities of the ANC being unbanned, and the building up of its fighting capacity.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the movement's acting president, Alfred Nzo, said the ANC needs to prepare its negotiating position or risk surrendering its initiative to the Pretoria regime.

ANC's Nzo Speaks

*AB1801180690 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT
18 Jan 90*

[Text] Lusaka, Jan 18 (AFP)—African National Congress [ANC] Secretary-General Alfred Nzo admitted Thursday that the guerrilla-backed organization did not have the capacity to intensify military activity inside South Africa "in any meaningful way." The frank admission came in a speech at the start of what Mr. Nzo called a "historic" meeting of the ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) with eight senior leaders of the organization who had served long prison sentences.

He said that until a mutual ceasefire was negotiated with the government armed action should continue. "But looking at our situation realistically we must admit we do not have the capacity inside the country to intensify the armed struggle in any meaningful way."

He added that the main military task was therefore to build up capacity inside the country to be able to fight effectively "should the need arise", and also to have "sizeable forces at the moment when a new South African Army is formed".

Mr. Nzo said the organization faced a "new and challenging situation" and that the NEC meeting would have to take a number of decisions which would have a "decisive impact on our country now and in the future".

He said it was possible that President Frederik de Klerk would "move with some speed" to try to catch the movement off balance and keep the initiative in the rapidly developing political situation in South Africa.

All the indications were that Nelson Mandela, the most famous ANC prisoner, and others would be released in the near future and that Pretoria "will also address in one way or another" issues such as ending the state of emergency, unbanning the ANC and other organizations and allowing exiles to return, he said.

These are preconditions the ANC has set for the start of negotiations. The NEC meeting would have to decide what the organization should do if it was unbanned—whether it would operate solely as a legal movement or whether it would maintain "some underground units", Mr. Nzo added.

He said the meeting would also "discuss and decide on (a) proposal communicated to us by Mandela. As late as yesterday he confirmed the importance of that proposal and indicated he would contact us on Sunday" to hear their opinion.

Mr. Nzo gave no details of the proposal.

Liberia

Exiled Opposition Leader Tipoteh Interviewed

AB1801211190 London BBC World Service
in English 1709 GMT 18 Jan 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Well, reaction to the events in Nimba County from the Liberian opposition has been somewhat ambiguous and mixed. Internal arms of the government, such as Baccus Matthews, and the churches, which have often been at loggerheads with the government, have condemned the rebellion, while the opposition in America has been more circumspect. Well, yesterday, veteran exiled opposition leader Tom Nah Tipoteh was here in London to give a press conference on behalf of his Association for Constitutional Democracy in Liberia. Robin White asked him what their attitude was to the rebellion:

[Begin recording] [Tipoteh] Well, the Association for Constitution Democracy in Liberia has issued a statement which indicates that it understands the reason why people from Nimba have taken up arms against the government. This is against the background of the Quiwonkpa attempted coup in 1985 where, of course, thousands of people—in fact, our estimate was over 3,000 persons—got massacred. So, our position is one of understanding. Having said that, we want to develop an atmosphere now where we can encourage people of Nimba to participate fully in the wider democratic struggle which we have embarked upon.

[White] It sounds as if you think this rebellion was a mistake?

[Tipoteh] We do not have that position. I think that our position is that we need to be able to set up an atmosphere—develop some confidence where we can have fruitful discussions with all patriotic democratic forces. And if they claim to be patriotic, elements of the patriotic and democratic forces will want to meet with them and see the extent of which we can involve them in the wider struggle. And so the question about trying to castigate them does not arise at all. That is not our position.

[White] But you think they should do what now? Give up?

[Tipoteh] We think that they should come to a situation where we can discuss the participation in the broad democratic struggle in which we are engaged in, so that it does not appear to be sectionalistic and the people of Nimba cannot be just cited out for undue punishment. This is the Liberian people's struggle. It happens that many Nimba people are involved; but this is a struggle of the Liberian people for democracy in Liberia and we will like to encourage them to work within that context.

[White] Elections were due in Liberia in 1991 when... [changes thought] There are opposition groups who have

clearly been hopeful that they could participate in them. And I know that you yourself had some hopes of going home and participate in them. Do you think these events have put back the chances of these elections taking place at all?

[Tipoteh] Well, the catalytic event for our current position now is the massacre taking place in the country. We say now that there is no more basis for discussing with Doe with respect to the modalities of the 1991 elections. The only discussing we are interested in now is to discuss the modalities of transfer of power to the people. That means, of course, setting up a transition government that will prepare for free and fair elections...

[White, interrupting] But is this fair? I mean, Doe was not responsible for this invasion. Why refuse to talk to him now because of this invasion?

[Tipoteh] No, he is responsible for the massacre that is taking place in Liberia. And this is the essential point. We are doing this in the interest of stopping... putting an immediate stop to the killings in Liberia. We are interested in the lives of our people and we want to prevent the killings of people of Liberia. This is the main point. If he is not prepared to do this, then, of course, we will be able to put together series of people's power activities to force him out of office.

[White] What does that mean in practice? Street demonstrations?

[Tipoteh] This means that the ... [changes thought] Seemingly isolated strikes, slow downs, different activities to expose corruption in high places in government—which has been taking place—will now be fully coordinated and broadened to strengthen the impact of that. [end recording]

Legislator Admits to Drug Trafficking in U.S.

AB1701112190 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
0709 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Grand Bassa County Representative James Verdier, charged with drug trafficking in the United States, has admitted to the charges. Reports reaching Monrovia yesterday said Representative Verdier was arrested and detained in the United States last June when the drug was found in his possession.

According to yesterday's edition of the NEWS newspaper, House Speaker Samuel D. Hill, who made the disclosure yesterday in an interview with journalists, said we thought that Verdier was not guilty of the charges against him, and expressed surprise that a quiet man like Representative Verdier could engage in such things. Speaker Hill then pointed out that the matter would be brought to the attention of the national legislature where the necessary action would be taken.

Nigeria

Minister of State Briefs East European Envoys

AB1601192490 *Lagos Domestic Service in English*
1800 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Chief Eyoma Ita Eyoma, today addressed ambassadors of East European nations in Lagos on developments in their countries. He used the occasion to state the Federal Government's views on the recent visit to Hungary by the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha. The minister said the Federal Government was concerned by that visit, especially as Mr Botha declared after that it was the beginning of diplomatic and economic cooperation with Eastern Europe. Chief Eyoma pointed out that the visit breached the United Nations sanction against South Africa, as it was aimed at opening business opportunities for South Africa in Eastern Europe.

Senegal

President Diouf Ready for Talks With Mauritania

LD1701233690 *Paris International Service*
in French 1230 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Senegal makes no preconditions for settlement of the conflict with Mauritania. This is what President Abdou Diouf said in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo. We are ready to discuss all issues that Mauritania may want to put on the agenda, the Senegalese head of

state said, pointing out that all mediators should intensify their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the dispute.

This message is of direct concern to Presidents Dawda Jawara of Gambia and Lansana Conte of Guinea, who tomorrow begin a mediation mission. They will visit the two capitals, Dakar and Nouakchott.

23 of Nation's Fishermen Freed in Mauritania

AB1701075490 *Dakar Domestic Service in French*
2000 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Twenty-three Senegalese fishermen, who were detained since 15 August 1989, were set free yesterday by Mauritania and handed over to the Senegalese authorities. Our correspondent Doro Ndiaye witnessed the event:

[Begin Ndiaye recording] Indeed, it was around 1800 that the convoy from Nouakchott arrived at the Diama border post. After the signing of the document, the official handing over of the detainees took place between the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Dakar and Nouakchott, in the presence of the military authorities of the two countries. Then, Francois Perez of the ICRC handed over the 23 fishermen to Governor Souleymane Dieng who, on the occasion, had invited to the Governor's palace ICRC delegates, councillors, and dignitaries of the villages where the fishermen came from. The ICRC delegate in Dakar expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the step as the fishermen were released and joined their families yesterday. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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